

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Petco Foundation Donates \$180,000 to Harris County Animal Shelter
Shelter Dogs Help Break Ground for New Transfer Center

Harris County, TX (February 25, 2016) – The Petco Foundation has donated \$180,000 to the Harris County Public Health & Environmental Services (HCPHES) Animal Shelter. The money will be used to create the Petco Foundation Transfer Center, which will help ensure adoptable animals are disease free before being accepted by transfer groups. The current shelter, built in 1986, serves the residents and pets of unincorporated Harris County, home to more than two million people.

Currently, due to overcrowding, HCPHES does not have space to hold groups of adoptable animals long enough to ensure they are healthy before they are transferred. The shelter takes in an average of 25,000 homeless animals per year. The new Petco Foundation Transfer Center has the potential to save an additional 3100 animals each year.

“The Petco Foundation’s generous gift will allow us to save animals’ lives by increasing their chances of being adopted,” said Dr. Umair A. Shah, Executive Director of HCPHES. “We’re extremely grateful for the Petco Foundation’s support of our community and its homeless pets.”

The Groundbreaking and Petco Foundation Check Presentation will be on Leap Day, Monday, February 29th, 2016 at 11:30 am, at the Harris County Animal Shelter located at 612 Canino Rd, Houston, TX 77076. Helping us *break-ground*, will be some of our shelter dogs, in hardhats. They will be joining Harris County Judge Ed Emmett and officials from Harris County, the Petco Foundation and local Petco store partners.

“The Petco Foundation is thrilled to support Harris County Public Health & Environmental Services with a Lifesaving Impact Investment as it breaks ground on this much-needed facility to increase capacity in order to save more animal lives,” said Susanne Kogut, Executive Director of the Petco Foundation. “We think this is a great step forward and we are honored to be able to support the work of the dedicated team that has made great strides toward increasing the leave alive rate in Harris County. We hope this investment will help transform this community into a lifesaving community.”

The Petco Foundation Transfer Center will be a double wide modular unit housing three separate areas, each outfitted with kennels, cages, food prep areas, storage and a bathing tub. The new Petco Foundation Transfer Center will need additional volunteers to help care for the animals waiting for transfer to loving, permanent homes. For information on volunteering or to sign up, visit www.hcphe.org/vph.

About the Petco Foundation

At the Petco Foundation, we believe that every animal deserves to live its best life. Since 1999, we've invested more than \$145 million in lifesaving animal welfare work to make that happen. With our more than 8,000 animal welfare partners, we inspire and empower communities to make a difference by investing in adoption and medical care programs, spay and neuter services, pet cancer research, service and therapy animals, and numerous other lifesaving initiatives. Through our Think Adoption First program, we partner with Petco stores and animal welfare organizations across the country to increase pet adoptions. So far, we've helped more than 4.5 million pets find their new loving families, and we're just getting started. Visit petcofoundation.org to learn more about how you can get involved.

About Harris County Public Health & Environmental Services (HCPHES)

HCPHES is the local public health agency for the Harris County, Texas jurisdiction. It provides a wide variety of public health activities and services aimed at improving the health and well-being of the Harris County community. For more information, please visit HCPHES at www.hcphe.org.

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